REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected. The Examiner has objected to Claims 1-5.

In response to the Examiner's objections, applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 4. However, in order to maintain consistency, applicants have replaced "carboxylic" with "carboxyl" in claims 1 and 4. Applicants have retained the word "carboxyl" in claims 2 and 5, as applicants respectfully submit that this the ordinary use of the word in this circumstance for one skilled in the art.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4 to remove the antecedent basis rejection. Thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5, 102, 775 to Okuhara et al. in view of U.S. Patent JP 11-327139 to Minoru et al. Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner states that Okuhara is silent with regard to modification of acrylic resin with a glycidyl group containing unsaturated monomer (I) recited in the instant claim 1, but that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the carboxyl group-containing acrylic resin of Okuhara et al. by the glycidyl compound (I) of Minoru et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

There are several important differences between the present invention and the cited references that render the present invention non-obvious. For example, Okuhara uses water as the solvent. In contrast, Minoru discloses only organic solvent and reactant monomers as diluent (B), (See [0020] of Minoru). Thus, Minoru does not teach a water system such as Okuhara. In addition, Okuhara discloses a visible light sensitive composition. Again, in

contrast, Minoru discloses an ultraviolet sensitive composition (See [0033] and [0038]). Furthermore, Okuhara discloses a composition for electrodeposition coating. On the other hand, Minoru discloses permanent resists of a printed wired board. Accordingly, not only are there important differences between the present invention and Okuhara, but the technical field of Okuhara is different from that of Minoru. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okuhara with Minoru.

In addition, with regard to claim 3 in the present invention, the Examiner states that Okuhara discloses photopolymerization of water-soluble resin having an acid value up to 300 mg KOH/g resin, and that it must inherently result in the formation of hydrogel as recited in the present claim. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Okuhara discloses the composition for electrodeposition coating. In Okuhara, the composition is applied onto the surface of a conductor to form the electrodeposition film, and the electrodeposition film is dried with hot air, or the like, to remove the water contained in the electrodeposition film. After that, the electrodeposition film is exposed to visible light to cause curing (See col. 23, lines 34-66). Thus, a hydrogel, as recited in the present invention, is generally not formed in Okuhara.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art of record and agree with the Examiner that they do not teach, disclose or suggest the present invention.

CONCLUSION

Based on the Amendments and Remarks above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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